

REMARKS

After entering the above amendments, claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-28, 30-47, 49-65 and 67-69 will be pending. Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are requested in light of the above-marked amendments and the foregoing remarks.

Summary of Rejections. The Office has rejected claims 1, 16, 25, 44 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentably obvious over Patent Publication No. WO 99/13415 to Wong ("Wong") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,889 to Tarbox et al. ("Tarbox"); claims 4 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentably obvious over Wong and Tarbox, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,032,119 to Brown et al. ("Brown"); claims 7,22,35,50 and 64 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentably obvious over over Wong and Tarbox, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,606,336 to Yuki ("Yuki"); and claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentably obvious over Wong and Tarbox, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,944 to Lipkin ("Lipkin").

Allowable Subject Matter. The Office objected to claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20-21, 23-25, 27, 29-31, 33-34, 36-40, 42-43, 45-46, 48-49, 51, 53-55, 57, 59-60, 62-63, 65-67 and 69 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Summary of Amendments. With this amendment, claims 1, 10, 16, 28, 31, 44, 49 and 58 have been amended, and claims 9, 24, 29, 48, and 66 have been canceled. The amendments are fully supported by the original specification.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Independent claims 1, 16, 28, 44 and 58 have been amended to incorporate the full limitations of a claim that was objected to, but which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 16, 28, 44 and 58 are now allowable. The remaining pending claims in the present application are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim. Accordingly, the rejections under 35 USC §103 should be withdrawn. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

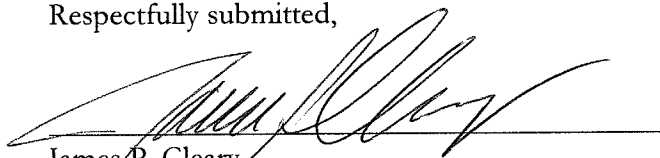
CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

Applicant is concurrently filing herewith a Petition for a two-month extension of time, authorization for a credit-card payment of the filing fees mentioned above is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the additional claim fee and any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311. If there are any questions regarding this reply, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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